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PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

18 November 1947

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I appreciated very much your letter informing me of the continuance of applicant investigations by the FBI for this agency. The fine support which the Bureau has rendered the Central Intelligence Agency has been, I am convinced, a major contributory factor during the difficult formative period of our growth, and is yet another achievement in the long history of your organization.

Very honestly, I feel that the CIA, designed to produce and correlate foreign intelligence for the national security, must always be dependent upon that agency of the Federal Government upon which the whole interior security structure is based. Through your investigative inquiries, we have built up an organization of the most carefully screened personnel in the Government, comparable only to the FBI itself. As evidence of this, only one of the thousands of persons so screened has been brought before our Employment Review Board and even this case is awaiting further investigation. As you know, the other recent cases of termination as security risks were persons whom CIA was forced to accept without previous investigation.

The investigation of all our U.S. employees by an agency other than CIA does in itself furnish a certain protection both to the Government and to the agency. Our only mission is the foreign intelligence one. We certainly do not wish to build up, even for the purpose of investigating our own candidates, an organization which could be even accused of duplicating or overlapping the function of the FBI. As example, I feel the very fact that there exists in our investigative files the FBI reports on myself, the Director, is a protection to the Government and to myself. This is in accord with the democratic process of checks and balances and dispels all accusations of "Gestapo" to either of our agencies.

I appreciate that, in the face of your own tremendous task and responsibilities, you have felt, as I do, that in these perilous times our national security demands the closest alliance

DOC 29	REV DATE 06/05/80	BY 018945
ORIG COMP 10	OPI 31	TYPE 01
ORIG CLASS 2	PAGES 2	REV CLASS 11
JUST	NEXT REV	AUTH: HR 70-2

HOOPER / FBI / ALLEN KENT

FBI SECURITY INVESTIGATION

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between our two agencies. My desire is to maintain fully my own part in this mutual cooperation, and I trust you to inform me at any time of any improvements which can be made by myself or my officials.

Frankly, I wish to continue to depend upon the FBI for our investigative inquiries. The bulk of this load will soon begin to recede, which will help relieve your burden, but I will always need your thorough investigative organization back of me in order to keep this agency at the exceptionally high standard which it has now attained.

I am relying upon the full personal accord reached in our mutual conversations and would like to feel that our two agencies will work from now on out as closely. I would be glad to discuss with you at any time any further points on this matter, and will count upon you to tell me your own views in reply.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,  
s/RIH -

Disp. by hand 11/19/47

R. H. HILLENKOTTER  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

Drafted by I&S  
Col. Edwards

Distribution:

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